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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Appl. No. | : | 09/297,181 | Confirmation No: 9384 |
| Applicant | : | BRACCO, et al. | |
| Filed | : | Apr 26, 1999 | |
| TC/A.U. | : | 1636 | |
| Examiner | : | Kaushal | |
| Docket No. | : | ST96030-US (80375.0034) | |
| Customer No. | : | 29693 | |

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Request for Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully request a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, extending the period for response to September 12, 2003. A Fee Transmittal and Credit Card Form covering the extension fee are enclosed. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1129. If additional fees are required to keep this case pending, or if payment cannot be made otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to take any fees necessary from Deposit Account No. 50-1129.

Respectfully submitted,

Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP

Date: Sept. 12, 2003

By:


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